

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 136

BY SENATOR BARROW

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Reverend Willie Laws on his retirement after twenty-six years of faithful service to the Lord and the Methodist Church in Louisiana.

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Reverend Willie Laws on his retirement after twenty-six years of faithful service to the Lord and the Methodist Church in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Rev. Laws is currently serving as the executive director of the Wesley Foundation at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Willie Laws serves as an ordained associate member of the Louisiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Laws has carried his mission to serve the Lord to numerous churches in the Baton Rouge district, all affiliated with the United Methodist Church, including Andrew Chapel in Denham Springs, Hughes United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge, Moses Chapel in Zachary, Scott United Methodist Church in Port Allen, Wesley United Methodist Church in Norwood, Asbury, Beech Grove and Mt. Carmel United Methodist Churches, all in Clinton and the Wesley Foundation at Southern University in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, as executive director at Wesley Foundation at Southern University, Rev. Laws has encouraged Wesley students to reach out to local ministries at Broadmoor and St. Paul United Methodist churches in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, the Wesley students have participated in a Baton Rouge Habitat build

1 and the fiftieth anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. March on Washington, and have  
2 received training from People Improving Communities Through Organizing on becoming  
3 involved in issues such as incarceration reform and gun control reform; and

4 WHEREAS, Rev. Laws has sought to encourage Wesley students to put their  
5 Christian witness to work in their community through such projects as a tutoring program  
6 conducted by the Wesley students in partnership with Southern University's Service  
7 Learning Department where the university students help area elementary and junior high  
8 school students to improve their scores on standardized and year-end tests; and

9 WHEREAS, Rev. Laws has encouraged the students involved in the Wesley  
10 Foundation to live their Christian principles in service to their campus, their community, and  
11 beyond the borders of Louisiana, extending to Washington, D.C., through this wide variety  
12 of activities and outreach projects; and

13 WHEREAS, under the leadership of Rev. Laws, the Wesley Foundation at Southern  
14 University welcomes college classmates to join in their crawfish boils, movie nights,  
15 Thursday socials and game nights featuring karaoke and an open microphone, all activities  
16 designed to provide social and campus interaction, enriching lives with meaningful and  
17 supportive relationships and bringing faith and fellowship to the larger campus environment;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Rev. Laws is one of eleven Methodist ministers who lead campus  
20 ministries in Louisiana through the Wesley Foundation; and

21 WHEREAS, Rev. Laws has brought his own talents to projects in all of the churches  
22 he has led, particularly working to raise funds for a new roof and carpeting for Wesley  
23 United Methodist Church in Wilson, Louisiana, a struggling rural congregation founded in  
24 1874; and

25 WHEREAS, Reverend Willie Laws has dedicated the last twenty-six years of his life  
26 to serving the Lord in his church and for the last ten years he has turned his attention  
27 specifically to young college people, inspiring their faith, leading them in Christian projects  
28 and fellowship, and encouraging them to integrate their faith into their lives beyond the  
29 Wesley Foundation.

30 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana

1       does hereby commend the Reverend Willie Laws on his retirement after twenty-six years of  
2       faithful service to the Lord and the Methodist Church in Louisiana.

3               BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Rev.  
4       Willie Laws at the Wesley Foundation at Southern University.

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          The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
          of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

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	DIGEST	
SR 136 Original	2016 Regular Session	Barrow

Commends the Reverend Willie Laws on his retirement after 26 years of faithful service to  
the Lord and the Methodist Church in Louisiana.